

29 July 1955

Mr. Roger W. Jones
Assistant Director
for Legislative Reference
Bureau of the Budget
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Jones:

This is in reply to your referral of 28 July 1955 requesting the comments of this Agency on H. J. Res. 157 (enrolled), a Joint Resolution to establish a Commission on Government Security.

Under Section 102(d)(3) of the National Security Act of 1947 CIA is prohibited from any internal security functions. In establishing a Commission on Government Security, H. J. Res. 157 concerns itself primarily with internal security, and, therefore, it would appear to be inappropriate for this Agency to comment on any policy aspects as to whether or not this legislation should be approved. We will therefore limit our comments to those specific aspects of the legislation which would affect CIA.

Section 7(a) of the proposed resolution contains the usual authorities for the Commission to hold hearings, with power of subpoena, and authority to secure from any agency of Government such information and statistics as it may require. Government agencies are directed to furnish such information to the Commission. However, Section 8 of the resolution provides that nothing contained therein shall be construed to require an agency to release any information possessed by such agency when, in the opinion of the President, the disclosure of such information would jeopardize or interfere with the carrying out of the intelligence responsibilities of such agency or the interest of national security.

As you are aware, such security problems as arise in this Agency, including those connected with personnel security, often involve operational intelligence information of a sensitive nature,

the knowledge of which is limited to a minimum number of persons. Furthermore, the Director is charged, under the National Security Act of 1947, with the protection of intelligence sources and methods, which frequently have a direct bearing on security matters. It is felt that the inclusion of Section 8 in H. J. Res. 157 takes cognizance of these particular problems and will afford the Agency the necessary protection in carrying out its statutory responsibilities. Therefore, from the standpoint of the particular problems of CIA, we can interpose no objection to favorable consideration of this resolution.

Sincerely yours,

Walter L. Piersheimer
Legislative Counsel

OGC:WLP/blc

Orig. & 1 - Add

2 - Signer w/basic

1 - DD/S

1 - Dir. of Security

CONCUR:



John Deputy Director/Support

STAT